

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 BRASILIA 7123

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS PORG UNGA BR
SUBJECT: 33RD UNGA US-BRAZIL CONSULTATIONS--GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES, ANTI-HIJACKING, HUMAN RIGHTS AND UN REFORM

1. SUMMARY. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT BARRY MET SEPTEMBER 5 WITH AMBASSADOR LUIZ PAULO LINDENBERG SETTE, CHIEF OF BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO DISCUSS UPCOMING UNGA. THIS CABLE REPORTS DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA, CONFERENCE ON RACISM, MIDDLE EAST, PUERTO RICO, KOREA, CYPRUS, ANTI-HIJACKING, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND UN REFORM AND BUDGET ISSUES. ECONOMIC ISSUES, CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND DISARMMENT ARE DEALT WITH IN SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT BARRY, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS, HELD PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS SEPTEMBER 5 WITH BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TEAM HEADED BY IO DEPARTMENT CHIEF AMBASSADOR LUIZ PAULO LINDENBERG SETTE. LINDENBERG SETTE WELCOMED DAS BARRY TO TALKS, WHICH HE SAID HAD BECOME "SOMEWHAT OF A TRADITION." BARRY EXPLAINED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES HAD VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH WANTED TO COME, BUT THAT PUERTO RICO AND NAMIBIA ISSUES PREVENTED HIS LEAVING WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME. BARRY REITERATED ASST SECRETARY'S OFFER TO MEET WITH LINDENBERG SETTE JUST PRIOR TO OR EARLY IN UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK.

3. NAMIBIA: BARRY OPENED FORMAL REMARKS BY STATING THAT US HOPES THAT CONSTRUCTIVE TREND OF LAST TWO UNGAS CONTINUES BUT OBSERVED

THAT THERE IS GREATER POTENTIAL FOR CONFRONTATIONAL SESSION THIS YEAR, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF CURRENT EFFORTS TO REACH SOLUTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. RE NAMIBIA, BARRY REVIEWED US EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT AND PLANS FOR UNTAG. STRESSING THAT USG IS SEEKING TO PROMOTE LATIN AMERICAN AND OTHER PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG AND HAS RECEIVED SOME POSITIVE RESPONSES, BARRY SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT GOB MIGHT WISH TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL LINKS TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BARRY ALSO NOTED FINANCING PROBLEM, SAYING THAT WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP AND SYG SUPPORT FINANCING OF PEACEKEEPING BASED ON REGULAR UN ASSESSMENT SCALE. LINDENBERG SETTE AGREED THAT CLIMATE IN GA WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST EVENTS BEYOND BRAZIL'S CONTROL, AND GOB WAS THEREFORE ADOPTING "WAIT AND SEE" STANCE. GOB WAS HOPING FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP IN SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS FOR USG TO USE ITS "INFLUENCE" WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOMIN BOTHA AND HIS COLLEAGUES. AS TO FINANCING, LINDENBERG SETTE AGREED THAT NAMIBIA WAS CLEAR CASE OF INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND THAT THIS FACT GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO REGULAR FINANCING FORMULA. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR IMPACT OF INCREASED ASSESSMENTS ON BRAZIL. FOR THIS REASON HE COULD NOT ANTICIPATE GOB'S STAND, WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER GOB STUDY. LINDENBERG SETTE SAID GOB SUPPORTED WIDE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ON UNTAG, BUT DECLARED THAT BRAZIL WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE BECAUSE IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES NOT ONLY BE FREE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN REGION BUT ALSO NOT BE PERCEIVED AS HAVING ULTERIOR MOTIVES. GIVEN BRAZIL'S "STRONG COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS" CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH BLACK AFRICA, (AND, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY IT, BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA), CERTAIN PARTIES MIGHT WELL QUESTION

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BRAZIL'S MOTIVES IF SHE PARTICIPATED. (TO A QUESTION, HE INDICATED THERE MIGHT BE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON GOB INVOLVEMENT ON STRICTLY CIVILIAN SIDE OF UN PRESENCE; THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE PURSUED FURTHER FOR CLARIFICATION.) LINDENBERG SETTE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOB WOULD GIVE VERY FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO ANY POST-INDEPENDENCE REQUEST BY NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BARRY PROVIDED BRAZILIANS WITH COPY OF SYG'S RECENT REPORT ON UNTAG IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH LINDENBERG SETTE SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED.

4. RHODESIA/SOUTH AFRICA: COMMENTING ON BARRY'S EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT WOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR CONSENSUS IN RHODESIA, LINDENBERG SETTE SAID THAT GOB WOULD SUPPORT ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS SITUATION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECENT NKOMO-SMITH MEETING MIGHT PRODUCE POSITIVE EFFECT. TURNING TO SOUTH AFRICA, BARY NOTED THAT THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN RAISED AT BOTH THE NON-LIGNED AND RACISM CONFERENCES AND THAT THE USG EXPECTED IT TO COME UP AGAIN AT THE UNGA, ALTHOUGH NOT WITH A HIGH PROFILE. BARRY SAID THE USG WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE RESOLUTIONS ON SANCTIONS AS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. LINDENBERG SETTE NOTED THAT GOB HAD VOTED FOR RESOLUTIONS AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BUT THAT IT DID NOT EXPECT TO TAKE A SPECIAL STAND ON MATTER AT THE UNGA. HE SAID BRAZIL AGREED THOROUGHLY WITH OUR POSITION ON SANCTIONS, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE REVELATION THAT BRITISH PETROLEUM HAD BEEN VIOLATING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS FOR 12 YEARS WILL MAKE THE WHOLE MATTER MORE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR. HE SAID THE GOB WOULD CONTINUE TO JUDGE RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR SANCTIONS ON THEIR POLITICAL CONTENT, WHICH IS HOW AFRICANS VIEW THEM, RATHER THAN ON LEGALISTIC GROUNDS. HE OBSERVED THAT AFRICANS HAVE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR PROGRESS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND LACK OF PROGRESS HAS LED TO "LESS THAN RATIONAL" TENDENCY TOWARD STRONGER LANGUAGE IN CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS. ADMITTING THAT "POLITICS ARE NOT THAT RATIONAL", LINDENBERG SETTE IMPLIED CONTINUED GOB TOLERANCE FOR AFRICAN POSITIONS.

5. CONFERENCE ON RACISM: BARRY EXPRESSED USG CONCERN THAT ZIONISM/ RACISM ISSUE WOULD AGAIN BE RAISED IN UNGA. HE EXPLAINED THAT USG WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE ON RACISM AS WELL AS IN REMAINDER

OF DECADE AGAINST RACISM, BUT THIS HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY ZIONISM-RACISM/NEXUS. LINDENBERG SETTE (WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FRM GENEVA WHERE HE HEADED GOB DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE) REPLIED THAT WITH SOME EFFORT-- ENTAILING A SLIGHT BUT WORTHWHILE RISK-- IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT ISSUE WOULD NOT ARISE AT UNGA, BUT OBSERVED THAT GA WOULD HAVE BEFORE IT REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON RACISM WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE AND IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN HOW GA DEALS WITH IT. HE NOTED THAT CONFERENCE ON RCISM, WHICH WAS MARKED BY LACK OF INTEREST AMONG AFRICANS, HAD ADOPTED "REMARKABLY LUKEWARM" ATTITUDE ON ISSUE, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF US NON-PARTICIPATION AND DISASSOCIATION OF OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. LINDENBERG SETTE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ISSUE MAY HAVE RUN ITS COURSE.

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6. MIDDLE EAST: REFERRING TO BARRY'S OPENING REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST, LINDENBERG SETTE STATED THAT BRAZIL "HOPED AGAINST HOPE" FOR PROGRESS AT CAMP DAVID TALKS BUT ADDED THAT SOME INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM ISRAELIS. "BALL SEEMED TO BE IN ISRAEL'S COURT", HE SAID, AND GOB HAD NO INDICATIONS THAT ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO MOVE. BARRY REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO PARTICULAR INSIGHTS TO OFFER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AVOIDING GLARE OF PUBLICITY WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO MEANINGFUL TALKS. BARRY NOED SUCCESS OF UN PEACE FORCE IN LEBANON, STATING THAT FRENCH HAD OVERCOME EARLIER OBJECTIONS AND WERE NOW SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF FORCE MANDATE. HE ALSO SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS RE-ESTABLISHING ITS INFLUENCE

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AMONG CHRISTIANS IN SOUHERN LEBANON. USG WISHED TO AVOID, HOWEVER, EXTENSION OF PPEACEKEEPING FORCE TO NORTHERN LEBANON. AS FOR UNEF IN SINAI AND GAZA, BARRY NOTED SOME RELUCTANCE FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF UNEF MANDATE. LINDENBERG SETTE AGREED WITH THRUST OF BARRY'S OVERVIEW, ASSERTING THAT ISRAELI INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS ALWAYS EXISTED BUT THAT THE EMPHASIS HAS NOW SHIFTED. HE STATED STRONGLY THAT EXTENSION OF UN PEACE FORCE TO NORTHERN LEBANON WOULD BE "LAST RESORT" AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED. "LEBANON'S PROBLEMS MUST, IN LONG RUN, BE SOLVED BY LEBANESE, NOT OUTSIDERS. WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER CYPRUS," LINDENBERG SETTE SAID.

7. SPECIAL SESSION ON PALESTINE: REFERRING TO PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON PALESTINE, BARRY STATED THAT IF SUCH A SESSION IS PROPOSED AT UNGA, USG WOULD OPPOSE IT AS A LIKELY SETBACK FOR PEACE. LINDENBERG SETTE "TENDED TO AGREE" THAT SPECIAL SESSION WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. THE UNGA IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR SUCH MATTERS, HE ADDED. HE SAID GOB WOULD LIKE TO AVOID CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS, THOUGH ONE AGAINST ISRAEL WAS LIKELY TO BE INTRODUCED. HE AGREED WITH BARRY THAT PLO WAS NOT A STATE
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AND THUS SHOULD NOT BE AFFORED OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GNERAL UNGA DEBATE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RESOLUTIONS SEEKING TO ENHANCE PLO'S STATUS WERE ALMOST INEVITABLE, AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THIS ISSUE WOULD BECOME FOR GOB.

8. PUERTO RICO: BARRY REPORTED THAT USUAL REFERRAL MOTION ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD PROBABLY NOT SUCCEED THIS YEAR. HE REITERATED USG POSITON, CITING PRESIDENT CARTER'S JULY 25 DECLARATION, AND REQUESTED GOB SUPPORT AGANST CUBAN RESOLUTION. LINDENBERG SETTE, NOTING THAT BRAZIL WAS NOT MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OF 24, STATED THAT GOB POSITION ON PUERTO RICO WAS WELL-KNOWN (BRAZIL HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED US VIEW). HE ASKED BARRY, IF SOME TEXT IS FLOORED ON ISSUE, WHETHER USG WOULD PRESENT ALTERNA-TIVE TEXT. BARRY RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH ALTERNATIVE TEXT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, IDEA WAS REJECTED BE AUSE IT WOULD VITIATE USG VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION. RESPONDING TO LINDENBERG SETTE'S COMMENT THAT PACIFIC TRUST TERRITORY ISSUE MIGHT ALSO BE RAISED, BARRY NOTED THAT USG HAD FOUND LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION ON GUAM SATISFACTORY.

9. KOREA: LINDENBERG SETTE AGREED WITH BARRY'S VIEW THAT KOREA ISSUE, WHICH WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT COME UP AT UNGA, WAS FINALLY BEING RECOGNIZED AS DIVERSION FROM UNGA PRIORITY ISSUES. HE ADDED THAT, PERSONALLEYE, HE FOUND BOTH KOREAS UNREASONABLE.

10. CYPRUS: BARRY OPINED THAT CYPRUS WOULD BE TOUGH ISSUE AT UNGA AND EXPRESSED USG HOPE THAT UNGA WOULD STRENGTHEN SG TO CARRY OUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CYPRIOTS. LINDENBERG SETTE STATED THAT GOB WOULD SUPPORT "ALL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING MODERATE" IN CYPRUS. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT CYPRUS WAS GEOGRAPHICALLY REMOTE FOR BRAZIL AND GOB HAS VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE ON ANY OF THE PARTIES.
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11. ANTI-HIJACKING: BARRY ANNOUNCED THAT USG HAD NO PLANS TO RAISE ANTI-HIJACKING ISSUE AT UNGA, WHERE POSITIVE RESULTS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED. LINDENBERG SETTE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS TOPIC, BUT OPINED THAT PROPOSALS TO LIMIT TERRORISM TENDED TO GET "DILUTED OR DISTORTED" IN UNGA. GOB HAD NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CREATION OF COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, EVEN THOUGHT AT WEST GERMAN REQUEST GOB HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION

OF COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS: BARRY EXPRESSED AWARENESS OF GOB'S POSITION ON NORMATIVE ROLE OF UNGA ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE SAID USG DID NOT ANTICIPATE HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE ISSUE AT THIS YEAR'S SESSION, EXCEPT FOR QUESTION OF "BOAT REFUGEES", WHERE USG SOUGHT URGENT SOLUTION TO PRBLEM. BARRY ALSO NOTED CONCERN OF GOB AND OTHER GOV-ERNMENTS OVER PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH POST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIHTS, AND MENTIONED THAT THOUGHT WAS NOT BEING GIVEN TO PROPOSING A "COORDINATOR" ATHER THAN A HIGH COMMISSIONER. LINDENBERG SETTE REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO RESTATE GOB POSITON ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ADDING WHAT HE CALLED A PERSONAL NOTE, HOWEVER, HE MENTIONED THAT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES HAD BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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"SELECTIVE, HIGHLY DISTORED, AND DISCRIMINATORY" AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SO. HE REITERATED GOB VIEW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS INTERNAL CONCERN AND EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE OF ANY KIND WOULD SET BACK DOMESTIC EFFORTS AT IMPROVEMENT. HE SAID THAT IDEA OF A "COORDINATOR" INSTEAD OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS A NEW IDEA AND THAT THE GOB WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY.

13. UN REFORM: BARRY REQUESTED GOB'S VIEWS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S 1977 REPORT ON UN REFORM, AND NOTED THAT USG MAY PUSH THREE SPECIFIC IDEAS AT UNGA: INFORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, PEACEKEEPING FUND, AND STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS. CONCERNING SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, LINDENBERG SETTE REPLIED THAT WHILE BRAZIL WAS NOT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, ANY MECHANISM FOSTERING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES SHOULD BE TRIED. THERE WAS NO NEED, HOWEVER, FOR FORMAL DECISION OR SPECIAL MEASURES PERMITTING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, ALTHOUGH GOB DID NOT OBJECT TO THIS IDEA. LINDENBERG SETTE SAID THAT GOB WAS "IN PRINCIPLE" NOT AGAINST PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE PEACEKEEPING, BUT WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT STAND-BY CONTINGENTS. DECISION TO EMPLOY PEACEKEEPING FORCES MUST REMAIN AD HOC, HE ADDED. N GENERAL, GOB WAS DISENCHANTED WITH LACK OF SUCCESS OF UN PEACEKEEPING AND APPROACHED THE MATTER WITH A FEELING OF HOPELESSNESS. ELABORATING ON QUESTION OF RESTRUCTURING, NEW CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UN DIVISION HENRIQUE VALLE JUNIOR STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON RESTRUCTURING HAD BEEN FRUSTRATING OVER PAST FEW YEARS, BUT THAT ISSUE OF ABSORPTION OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES WOULD BE TAKEN UP NEXT MONTH. WESTERN AND G-77 COUNTRIES HAD BEEN DEADLOCKED IN GENEVA OVER MECHANISM FOR ABSORPTION. ENTIRE EXERCISE UP TO THIS POINT HAS BEEN CONFINED TO RESTRUCTURING SECRETARIAT. LINDENBERG SETTE AGREED WITH BARRY'S ASSESSMENT THAT IT WAS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE PARTICULAR UN BUREAUCRACY THAT ANY SPECIFIC COMMITTEE WAS MORIBUND AND SHOULD BE ABOSROBED. HE REFRAINED, HOWEVER, FROM COMMENTING ON USG'S SUGGESTION THAT SUG SHOULD BE SOURCE OF SPECIFIC RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATIONS.

14. UN BUDGET: BARRY OUTLINED VARIOUS USG INITIATIVES TO LIMIT UN
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BUDGET, INCLUDING CREATION OF BUDGET DIRECTOR, HOLDING DOWN UN SALARIES AND AIR TRAVEL EXPENSES, AND OPPOSITION TO PROLIFERATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AT UN. LINDENBERG SETTE SHARED BARRY'S ASSESSMENT OF BUDGET SITUATION, STATING AGAIN THAT BRAZIL WAS UNDER GREAT FINANCIAL PRESSURE BECAUSE OF SUCH EXCESSES. GOB HAD VERY FEW NEW INITIATIVES OF ITS OWN TO PRESENT TO UN, BUT LINDENBERG SETTE ADMITTED THAT BRAZIL MIGHT BECOME LOCKED INTO CERTAIN REGIONAL OR G-77 INITIATIVES. LINDENBERG SETTE STATED THAT HE AGREED ON OPPOSITION TO NEW OFFICIAL LANGUAGES, ALTHOUGH GOB WOULD BE IN AWKWARD SITUATION IF GERMAN LANGUAGE WERE TO BE FORMALLY PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION. (HE NOTED FOR INSTANCE THAT PORTUGUESE IS SPOKEN BY SOME 200 MILLION PEOPLE.) HE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH
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FOREIGN MINISTRY ON QUESTION OF FIRST-CLASS AIR TRAVEL.

15. PROGRAM EVALUATION: BARRY STATED THAT PROPOSALS FOR FORMAL PROGRAM EVALUATION WERE MISTAKENLY VIEWED BY MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS AN EFFORT BY RICH NATIONS TO CUT DOWN ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. LINDENBERG SETTE REPLIED SIMPLY THAT BRAZIL UNDERSTOOD US PERSPECTIVE ON SITUATION.

16 COMMENT: TALKS WERE HELD IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, AND HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT WORKING LUNCH FOREIGN MINISTRY HOSTED (TO WHICH AMBASSADOR WAS INVITED) ATTESTED TO SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOB APPROACHED CONSULTATION.SAYRE

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